GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:196
ANSWERED ON:12.03.2008
DEATHS DUE TO SMOKING
Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba;Das Gupta Shri Gurudas

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether smoking is likely to cause nearly a million deaths a year by 2010 in the country according to the study conducted by a team of doctors and scientists from India, Canada and Britain as reported in `The Hindu` dated February 14, 2008;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the effective steps taken by the Union Government to generate awareness among the people about the harmful consequences of smoking?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS)

(a)to(c): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 196 FOR 12TH MARCH, 2008

The findings of research team from India, Canada and the U.K. as published in the New England Journal of Medicine in February, 2008, has revealed that there will be about one million (10 lakh) tobacco deaths a year in India during 2010.

The key finding of the Report are summarized as below:

During the 2010s, there will be about one million (10 lakh) tobacco deaths a year in India;

About 70% of these one million deaths will be before old age; meaning 7,00,000 (7 lakh) per year killed at ages 30-69 (6,00,000 men and 1,00,000 women).

Tobacco is responsible for 1 in 5 of all male deaths and 1 in 20 of female deaths in middle age (i.e. at ages 30-69);

Men who smoke bidis lose on average six years of expected life, women who smoke bidies lose about eight years and men who smoke cigarette lose ten years;

Smoking kills mainly by Cancer, tuberculosis, respiratory and heart disease;

Even smoking only a few (1-7) bidis a day, raises mortality risks by one-third and smoking only a few (1-7) cigarettes a day nearly double(s) the risk;

Most of the gap between male and female mortality rates in middle age is due to smoking;

Substantial hazards were found both among educated and among illiterate adults and were found both in urban and in rural areas;

Stopping smoking works - but only 2% of adults have quit in India, and often only after falling ill.

Government of India has enacted a very strong Tobacco Control Act, 2003, which provides for the following:-

Prohibition of direct and indirect advertisement of all tobacco products.

Prohibition of smoking in a public place.

Prohibition of sale of all tobacco products to a person below the age of 18 years.

Prohibition of sale of all tobacco products within a radius of 100 yards of educational institutions.

Mandatory depiction of statutory warning (including pictorial warnings) on tobacco packs.

Government of India has launched the pilot phase of a comprehensive National Tobacco Control Programme for effective implementation of tobacco control measures and various provisions of the Act. The measures also include strong mass media/awareness campaign.